

Remarks by U.S. Consul General Beatrice Camp
at the Independence Day Reception
July 3, 2007

It has been my privilege to serve here in Chiang Mai as U.S. Consul General since 2004. My tenure has spanned three memorable years, marked by historic events. None of us will ever forget the tsunami in 2004, or the floods in 2005, or the coup in 2006. Considering this record, perhaps you are relieved that I am leaving before 2007 runs its course.

At the same time it is a pleasure to think back over some of the programs we have helped initiate here in Chiang Mai, such as our Earth Day event in 2005 and the New Orleans All Star Band in 2006. More recently we celebrated completion of the first project in northern Thailand funded by the Ambassador's fund for Cultural Preservation at Wat Ban Koh in Lampang. .

Most memorable of all has been the opportunity to experience the love and respect that Thais hold for HM the King and to participate in the 60th anniversary celebrations last year. I am sorry I will not be here as the King reaches his 80th birthday in December. However, I am happy to leave behind a small book that we have published in honor of this event and in recognition of the many threads that connect our two countries. As you leave this evening, I invite you each to take a copy of the book, *American Threads in the Lanna Fabric: US Involvement in Northern Thailand 1867-2007*.

Now please join me as we play the Royal Anthem and raise a toast to the King.